

TRUCKERS' 2025 HIGHWAY REPORT CARD



Worst and best roads,
state DOTs, parking infrastructure

OVERDRIVE
BY FUSABLE



Infrastructure

Anticipating the 2026 expiration of the current federal aid highway-funding package, 2021's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, *Overdrive* in Spring 2025 distributed a Highway Report Card survey to readers asking for viewpoints on state Departments of Transportation and their stewardship of highway infrastructure.

The survey asked respondents to pinpoint outliers around the nation:

- 1. The absolute worst state for highway upkeep**
- 2. The worst haul route within that state**
- 3. The best states for roads and parking availability and/or facility maintenance**
- 4. The worst metro areas nationwide for parking**

Follow-up questions revealed points of view from respondents, owner-operators and other over-the-road truck drivers, on just why they named the state, route or metro area they did. Results hold potential to assist federal and state governments in prioritizing highway and/or parking facility maintenance and expansion efforts.

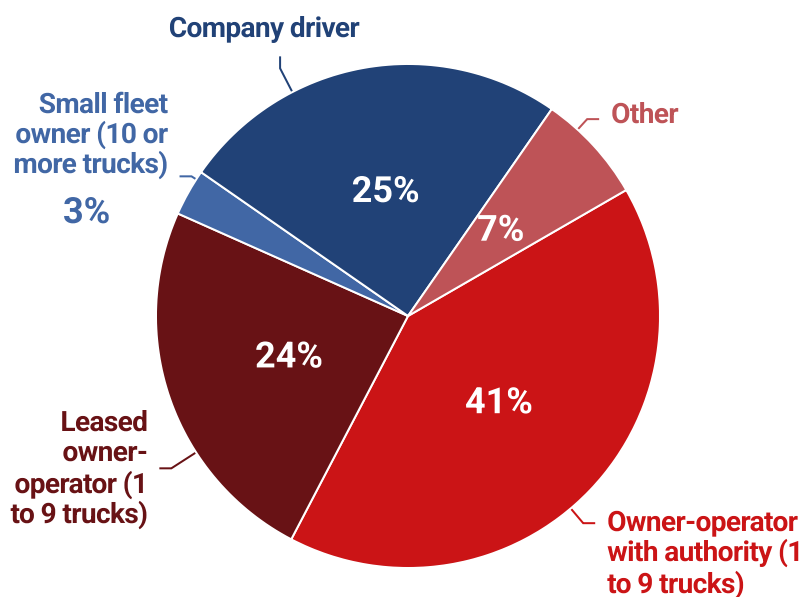
This survey report summarizes the findings.



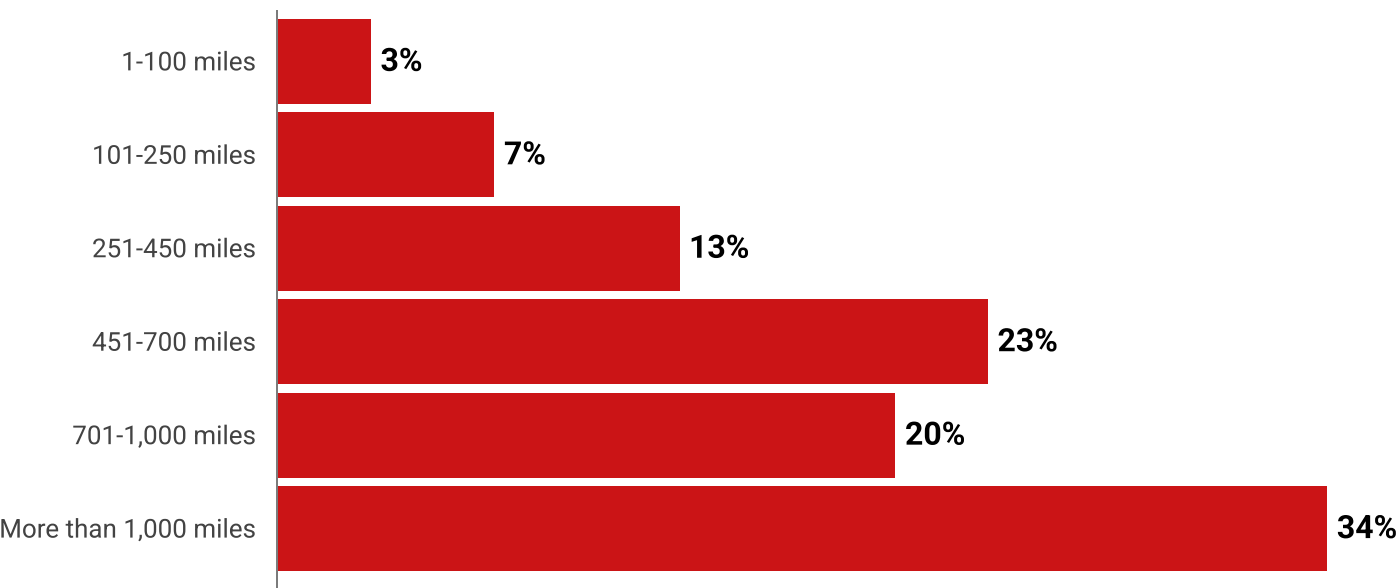
Demographics

Survey respondents represented a cross section of *Overdrive's* audience of small-business truckers, as shown in the chart, a third hauling truckload general freight, another fourth and fifth, respectively, pulling platform or refrigerated trailers. A bevy of other freight niches were represented in the respondent pool, from bulk tankers (12%) to less-than-truckload general freight (8%), autos (3%), intermodal containers (1%), household goods (1%) and more.

Distribution of nearly 600 Highway Report Card survey respondents

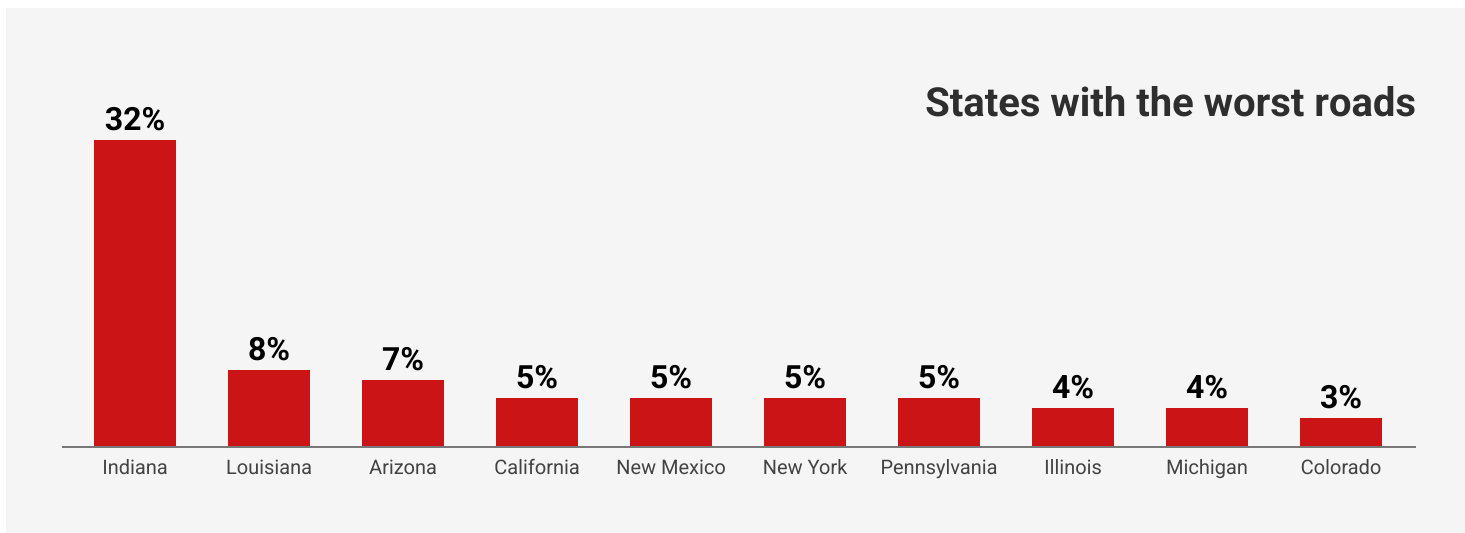


Average length of haul among respondents



More than 75% of all respondents reported an average length of haul above 450 miles.

Worst roads



By a large margin, the state of Indiana garnered the most opprobrium from *Overdrive* readers with respect to its upkeep of major haul routes like I-70, selected by the vast majority of voters who chose Indiana as worst in the nation. How bad has it gotten in the state? One survey respondent objected to the survey design, which limited choice of worst route in the named worst state to only “one road,” the respondent said. “Really, any road in Indiana could easily be named the worst. They are all bad and have been for years! If you want to break your truck, drive across Indiana.”

The state netted three different top-10-worst routes within its borders when results were tabulated by route, with I-70 the far and away worst road, but I-80 and I-65 in Indiana Nos. 8 and 9 on the list of worst routes. And out West, clearly I-40 needs work in more than one state – it’s a solid second to Indiana’s I-70 for worst route across both Arizona and New Mexico.

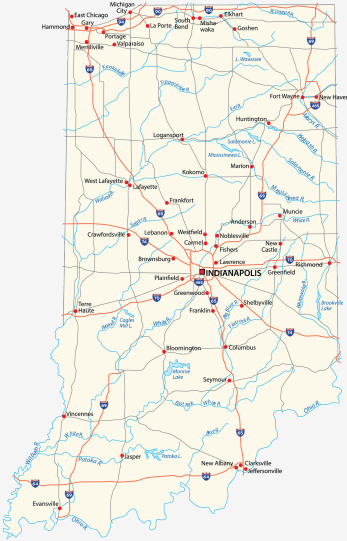
Some perennial worst states in *Overdrive*’s “Highway Report Card” surveys of the past have seen improvement over the last decade. Past No. 1 “winner” for worst roads Louisiana places a fairly distant second, and Pennsylvania has fallen down from its spot at the top of the worst states list more than a decade ago to seventh.

Worst individual routes among top 10 worst states

1. I-70 in Indiana
2. I-40 in New Mexico
3. I-40 in Arizona
4. I-10 in Louisiana
5. I-20 in Louisiana
6. I-95 in New York
7. I-5 in California
8. I-80 in Indiana
9. I-65 in Indiana
10. I-70 in Colorado

! **Dishonorable mention:**
I-94 in Michigan received just a single worst-route vote less than I-70 in Colorado.

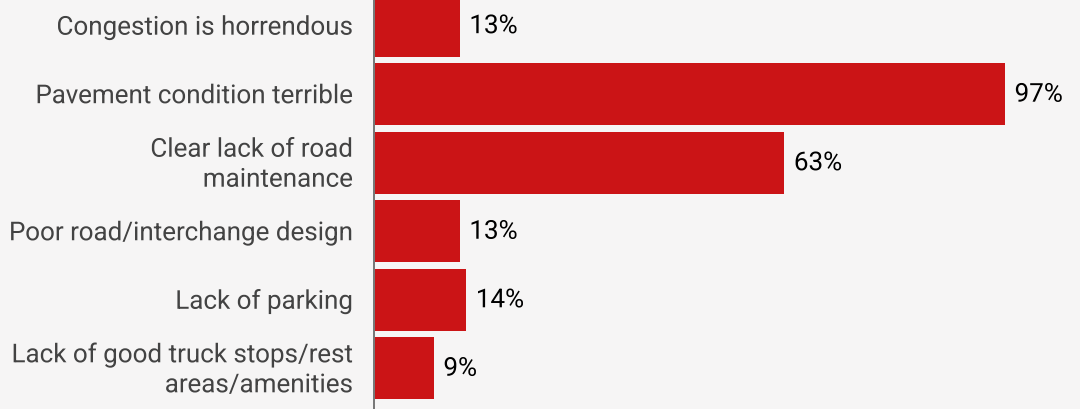
1. Indiana



Worst routes flagged

- I-70, named by 83% of Indiana worst-roads voters
- I-80, flagged by 7%
- I-65, 5%

What truckers are saying



"From the Ohio line to Indy, never seems to stay smooth. The state repairs/resurfaces and not long after it is just as bad or worse than before."

"I'm amazed that a state can let a road get this bad. I understand that it is a very heavy truck route but this road is ridiculous."

"It's offensive to think Indiana DOT is so ignorant to leave I-70 on the side of the state closest to Ohio unimproved for this long!"

"Not only the right lane is horrible, but trucks must stay in the right lane."

"I-70 is not even what I would call a highway. In Indianapolis that's the only place they seem to do major road work."

"Different speed limits for cars and trucks. Always being passed, or passing someone."

"I started in 1987. Indiana had the worst roads then, and they still do."

"From MM 123 to the Ohio border it should be torn up and redone by some other state that knows how to build roads, and not only is the highway terrible, but they can't even build bridges. Why won't they get out there and make decent repairs? Most of their attempted repairs are just as rough as the areas they were trying to fix."

"From Indianapolis to the Ohio line is just unbearable. Potholes that'll kick the cruise control off."

1. Indiana (continued)



"I have had better rides on dirt roads."

"When I pass through on I-70 I almost do flips behind the wheel. Hard to stay in your lane when the road is this bad."

"I-70 in Wayne County, both east and west, has broken more trucks' suspensions, blown-out tires and caused more accidents and injuries than any other stretches of road I can think of in my 42 years of driving."

"The roads are so bad, truck shocks and tires get messed up or broken frequently."

"Repair patches are so unevenly done that riding over them could cause tremendous damaging consequences to equipment, let alone cause cargo damage, too."

"This is absolutely the worst road in the whole world. I'm missing nuts and bolts after going across it. It's a big safety hazard, more than drunk driving."

"It was fixed and overlaid with asphalt, the repairs dropped a couple inches, and now it's rougher than a corn cob."

"DOT of that state should be fired."

"I think it must be a state law that I-70 bridges must be outfitted with a ski ramp on all approaches, with a 15-foot drop off."

"Interstates 80, 70, 65, 69, all of them in Indiana. I have literally blown steer tires, ruined front end parts, shocks, take your pick."



"Too many dips and very expensive tolls."

"Toll booths are impossible to navigate."

"Bridge approaches will send the driver into the roof of the truck."



"They have been working on I-70 East of Indianapolis, and their contractors are terrible at building roads. That goes for I-65 North of Indianapolis to I-80, too. The contractors they use for road construction South of Indianapolis on I-65 do a way better job of road building."

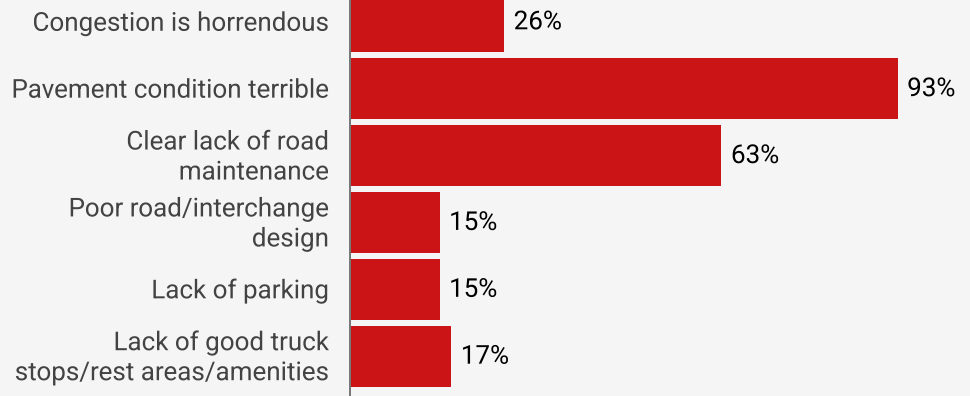
2. Louisiana



Worst routes flagged

- I-10, named by 46% of Louisiana worst-roads voters
- I-20, flagged by 39%
- I-55, 2%

What truckers are saying



"The problem areas are in the cities."

"Bouncing on I-10."

"Potholes, short acceleration lanes, and no shoulder."



"I-20 through Shreveport is totally horrible, bounces everything off and rides rough for 20 miles."

"Through Shreveport to the Texas line. As bad as it gets."

"Road is so full of bumps that our cargo will bounce off of flatbeds, and we have to slow down to maintain control of our vehicle. Other four-wheel vehicles have to slow down from hitting us."

"Check your rig for missing parts, spare tires and loose bolts after that ride."

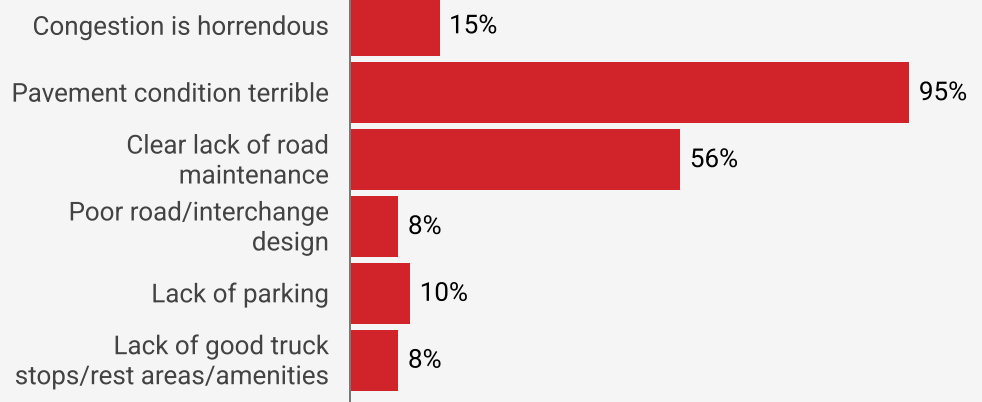
3. Arizona



Worst routes flagged

- I-40, named by 56% of Arizona worst-roads voters
- I-10, flagged by 23%
- I-11, 3%

What truckers are saying



"I'm at a total loss for words after running across I-40. It absolutely sucks! They've got better roads in third-world countries."

"Fix it."

"Honestly every state has a horrible quality of roads. It has been on the decline, and even new repairs are horrible. It's like being a bronco buster at a rodeo. There are ridiculously huge, deep potholes. Our quality of roads are definitely third-world quality."

"Arizona lottery was supposed to pay for road improvements, but apparently the money went to illegal aliens."

"Exit 80 eastbound to exit 89 eastbound not a good highway condition, very rugged road."

"Patching holes doesn't make a road smooth, nor does laying oil lines in cracks."

"The right lanes are severely damaged, yet the left lanes are flawless."



"They have helicopter tours of some of the bigger potholes."

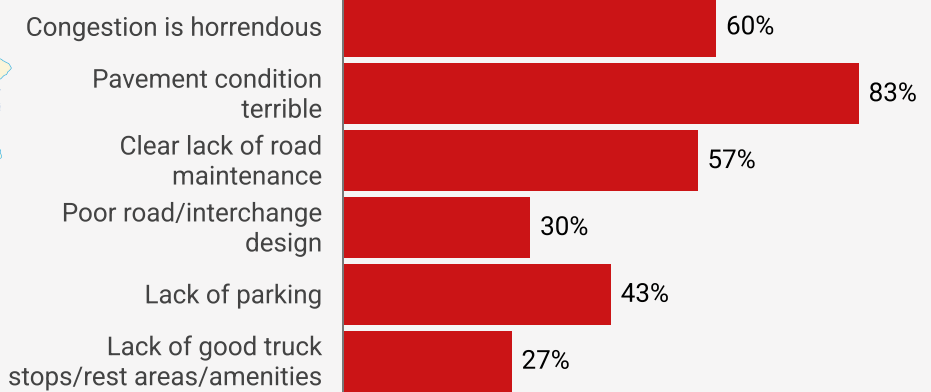
4. California



Worst routes flagged

- I-5, named by 47% of California worst-roads voters
- I-10, flagged by 10%
- I-80, 10%
- I-15, 7%

What truckers are saying



"55-mph truck speed limit causes death and destruction. Outside of the major metro areas, trucks should be up to at least 65 mph. Another issue is lack of equal enforcement. If the accidents didn't occur, many roads would not have some of the damages."



"Our road taxes are not being spent to fix the highways."



"Every other trip I go out there, I see an accident in which a car or pickup has hit the back of a semi-trailer due to trucks at 55 mph and cars at 70-plus."

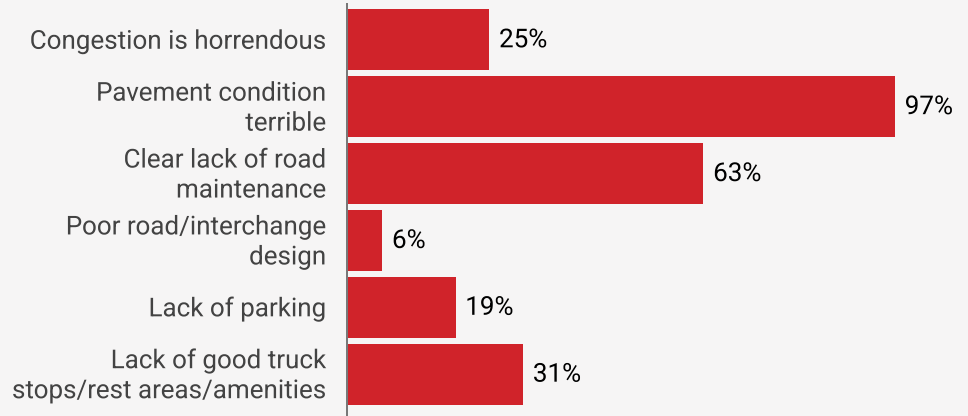
5. New Mexico



Worst routes flagged

- I-40, named by 91% of New Mexico worst-roads voters
- I-10, flagged by 3%

What truckers are saying



"No noticeable law enforcement. Speeds are well over the posted limits. But as always when they crack down it's always trucks."



"Honestly it was hard to choose only 1 state! The roads out here are getting worse every day. The potholes are horrendous. As team drivers, our shoulders are literally being destroyed due to bouncing so hard and flying through the air while sleeping."

"New Mexico does not care about their road conditions. All highways in New Mexico are trashed with major potholes."

"Cars speeding well over the speed limits, racing around trucks even on the shoulder of the road. Forcing trucks to stay in the right lane to run through potholes, having to complete passing in less than a mile, and continuous brake-checking by cars."

"It's so bumpy it feels like I'm riding in a wagon."

"Where do road and fuel taxes go?"



6. New York

Worst routes flagged

- I-95, named by 53% of New York worst-roads voters
- I-278 (the BQE), flagged by 13%
- I-86, 7%
- I-87, 7%
- I-90, 7%



7. Pennsylvania

Worst routes flagged

- I-80, named by 25% of Pennsylvania worst-roads voters
- I-81, flagged by 19%
- I-78, 13%
- I-76, 9%



8. Illinois

Worst routes flagged

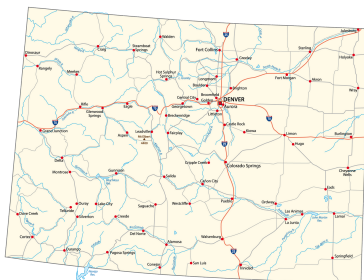
- I-294, named by 23% of Illinois worst-roads voters
- I-80, flagged by 19%
- I-55, 12%
- I-57, 12%



9. Michigan

Worst routes flagged

- I-94, named by 43% of Michigan worst-roads voters
- I-75, flagged by 26%
- I-69, 13%



10. Colorado

Worst routes flagged

- I-70, named by 58% of Colorado worst-roads voters
- I-76, flagged by 21%
- I-25, 11%



"The Cross Bronx Expressway. If you know, you know."

"Tax in NY is terrible. Where does the money go?"



"The entire front axle goes right into the holes in the road. Yes, I said 'holes' in the road!"

"About to collapse."



"Some parts have been re-constructed. However, there are areas near Oneonta that I reduce my speed to 50 (posted 65).



"The 'experimental' concrete has been patched and the patches are worse than the holes."



"Too much construction."

"For the amount of road tax PA charges, their roads are worse than Illinois and California. They must be losing our road tax to thieves in the state and federal governments."



"No parking, fatalities daily, and nonstop severe congestion along with destroyed roads, short on-ramps and off-ramps, lack of trucking facilities and hostility toward trucking and truckers from Pennsylvania municipalities and state departments."



"PennDOT has done multiple attempts at fixing the problem that results in a better road surface for six months. The contractors they hire are a joke and cause more congestion than is needed and do an absolutely atrocious job."



"No uniform lane sizes."

"If I could, I would checkmark every road listed for Illinois. Governor Pritzker and the Chicago Democrat Machine explains it all why the roads in Illinois suck!"



"Every road near Chicago is terrible."



"Between Chicago and Champaign."



"All the roads in Michigan are terrible."



"It is really a coin toss between I-94 or 75. Both are atrocious."



"The mountain passes are horrendously poor, with cracks, potholes, and crevices that resemble the Rocky Mountains themselves!"

"I despise having to drive Colorado roads!"

"Pavement breaks, potholes, total lack of maintenance."



"Most of the roads and highways in Denver area are falling apart. I-76 has a crater over two lanes going the same direction. We are based in Illinois but due to the road conditions, I stop servicing anything east of Illinois a long time ago."

"Getting potholes in it faster than they can fix them."

Superlatives: Truckers laud the best states for roads in the nation

Overdrive's Highway Report Card survey not only asked for the worst of the worst when it comes to highway infrastructure undergirding owner-operators' workplaces. Respondents gave credit where credit's due by naming the states whose DOTs do the best job of design, maintenance and expansion where needed to reduce congestion.

Notably, Florida (No. 1) and Georgia (9), named best by 15% and 3% of survey respondents, respectively, also appeared among the worst states for parking availability, opportunity and affordability. (Depends on where you go in Florida, though. Miami is notorious for paid parking, for instance, yet the Sunshine state overall also got high marks from survey respondents for best parking, placing No. 3 in that list.) Yet respondents lauded both for pavement condition and well-spaced lanes. Very few chose routes within those states for their plentiful parking options, though the top three states for roads placed (in slightly different order) in the top three for parking, too (see p. 20).

Yet one commenter lauded a particular parking aspect in the No. 1 best state for roads, earmarked by 15% of Highway Report Card survey respondents: "Florida is outstanding in every category including rest area availability, electronic signs to indicate parking availability, parking in weigh stations and outstanding smooth road conditions that are well-maintained."

About No. 2, Texas, one commenter noted his choice for the best haul route in the state, I-40, "isn't that much better than other Texas highways. Difficult to pick only one when mostly they're all good. Texas is so big that any given interstate is going to have problem areas needing attention. Texas' network of massive safety rest areas is excellent."

Said another, "I'd just checkmark all of the choices" for best route.

Top 10 best states for roads

1.	Florida	15%	6.	Montana	4%
2.	Texas	11%	7.	Nebraska	4%
3.	Ohio	10%	8.	Alabama	3%
4.	Kansas	5%	9.	Georgia	3%
5.	Nevada	5%	10.	Oregon	3%

 *Honorable mentions among states include No. 11-13 finishers **South Dakota, Wisconsin** and **Wyoming**, all also with 3% of the total vote.*

Overall, results for the individual best route in a state were spread across the top nine vote-getters among states. Florida's portion of I-75 and I-80 in Nebraska were tops for roads overall. Why? Nine in 10 truckers who chose Florida I-75 cited "Great pavement condition," another 90% either "Well-spaced lanes" or "minimal disruption" in traffic flow even with copious road maintenance. In Nebraska, similar dynamics were on offer, though the general lack of congestion along the route weighed heavier in truckers' choice of I-80 there.

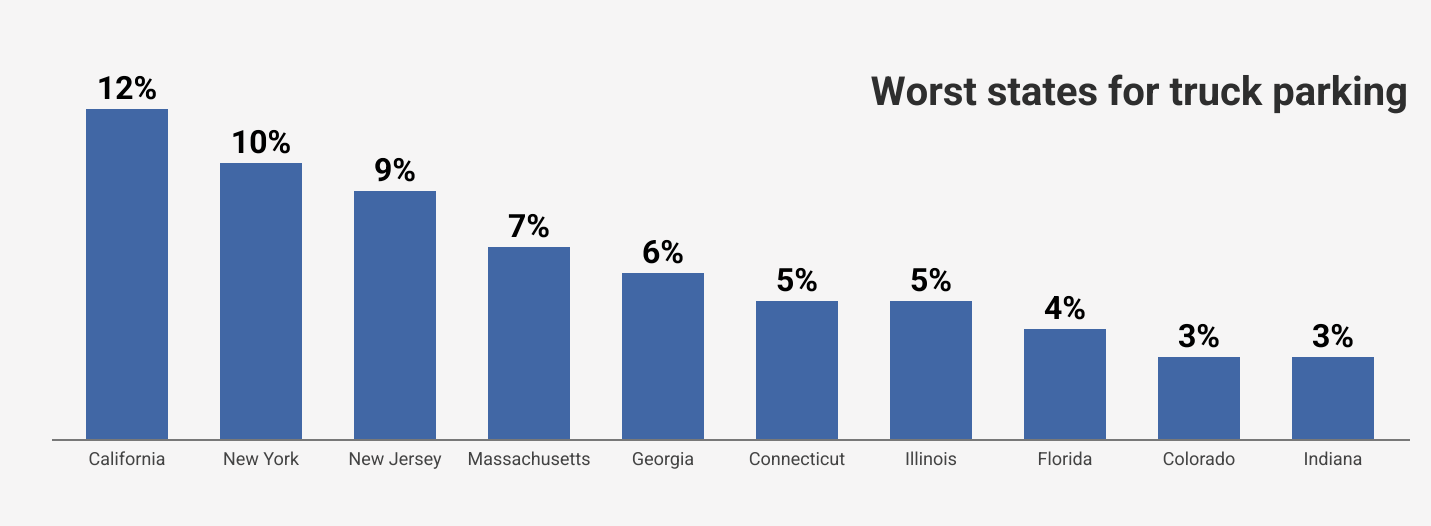
Quality road design and upkeep can be a feather in the cap for states who value their resident owner-operators' quality of life. As is often repeated, over-the-road truckers are "always headed home," mind you, and there's nothing perhaps more satisfying about OTR experience than a good road. Some states are clearly capitalizing, as pride of place was on offer in the survey results, too – the most common place of residence for those who chose the top three states of Florida, Texas and Ohio was the state itself, likewise for Alabama and Georgia among top ten states.

Best interstate routes in the nation

1.	I-75, Florida
2.	I-80, Nebraska
3.	I-10, Texas
4.	I-80, Ohio
5.	I-95, Florida
6.	I-80, Nevada
7.	I-10, Florida
8.	I-90, Montana
9.	I-70, Kansas
10.	I-20, Texas

I-75 and I-70 in Ohio tied Texas I-20 for the last spot, and I-75 in Georgia was just a single vote behind.

Worst parking



Dishonorable mentions for the top 10 worst states for truck parking include the great states of Tennessee, Washington and the cluster of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania in the mid-Atlantic. All of those states virtually tied Indiana and Colorado for final spots at 9 and 10, each named worst by around 3% of survey respondents.

Ranking particular cities and metros, areas that span one or more states stood out at the top or near it in the worst-parking list, with New York

City’s metro area garnering far and away the most votes for absolute worst. “Long Island,” noted one commenter. “No parking anywhere.”

Many commenters offered the *Northeast states are the worst* sentiment, and New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts were all present in the worst-states list. The winning margin for the Los Angeles area among many metros in California was huge out West, too, followed by the greater Denver, Seattle and San Francisco areas.

Worst individual metro areas

1. New York-Newark-Jersey City (NY/NJ)

2. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (CA)

3. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell (GA)

4. Chicago area (IL/WI/IN)

5. Boston-Cambridge-Nashua (MA/NH)
6. Miami region (FL)

7. Hartford area (CT)

8. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington (PA/NJ/DE/MD)

9. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (VA/MD/DC)

10. Denver area (CO)

!

Dishonorable mentions: The worst metro areas included the Seattle and San Francisco regions on the West Coast, named just under the number of respondents who chose Denver in Colorado.

2. New York

Worst metro areas flagged

New York-Newark-Jersey City, named by the vast majority of New York worst-parking voters (93%)

What truckers are saying



New York parking commentary focused solely on the New York City region, with this sentiment dominating: "For a Monday morning delivery in NYC, you better get to a parking place early Friday afternoon. Same for eastern Pennsylvania."

3. New Jersey

Worst metro areas flagged

- New York-Newark-Jersey City, named by 68% of New Jersey worst-parking voters
- Philadelphia-Camden, flagged by 14%

What truckers are saying



New Jersey parking commentary from survey respondents:

- "It's just bad."
- "The New Jersey toll plazas are nice, but anything over a couple hours gets spendy on the toll."
- "Truckers should not have to pay to park!"
- "Unfriendly to truckers."
- "Being charged at most major truck stops or the only truck stops is ridiculous."

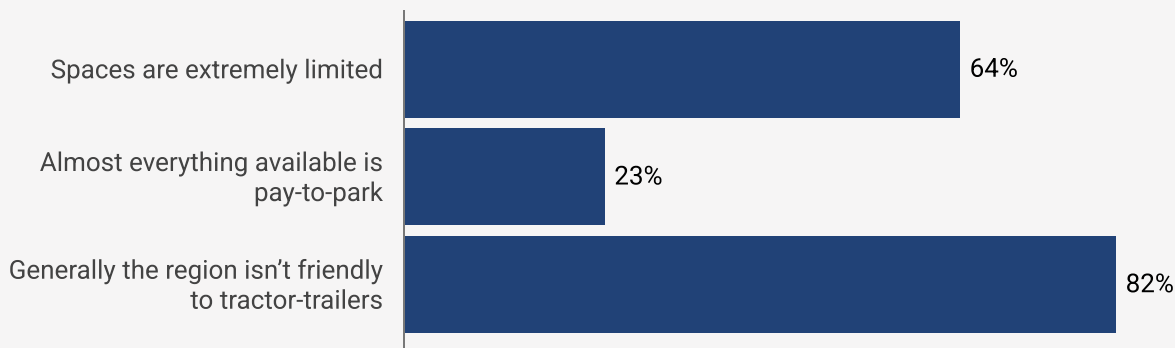
4. Massachusetts



Worst metro areas flagged

- **Boston-Cambridge, named by 55% of Massachusetts worst-parking voters**
- **Warwick-Providence (R.I.) area, flagged by 9%**
- **Worcester, 7%**

What truckers are saying



Massachusetts parking commentary from survey respondents:

- “I travel the 90 Massachusetts toll road to 495. There is no parking. The state recently closed off the overflow areas in the rest stops.”
- “Actually the whole of New England is terrible for trucks. Massachusetts seems to have no truck stops at all. Just a few. I know only two with 10 to 20 parking spaces.”
- “I live in the state, if I can’t get home to park there is no parking.”

5. Georgia



Worst metro areas flagged

Atlanta area, named by the vast majority of Georgia worst-parking voters (89%), with Augusta and Athens areas garnering just 6% and 3% of the vote, respectively.

What truckers are saying



Georgia parking commentary from survey respondents:

- "Ramp parking is illegal in many areas."
- "In general, Georgia does not have parking unless you are by the borders."
- "I picked Atlanta, but really the whole middle corridor seems lacking in spaces to park."
- "I have to stay an hour out of Atlanta since the truck stops are full by 3 p.m., and locals take up most of them."
- "Available parking is snatched up fast nearly every day!"
- "Lots are in poor condition."
- "Georgia on the whole is very unfriendly to trucks. No parking anywhere without fear of getting a barnacle or a boot on the truck or having to pay."
- "No planning for such a large metropolitan area as Atlanta. Extremely high-traffic area for trucks. Infrastructure is at least 10 years behind where it needs to be for the amount of truck traffic. Truck stops and rest areas are sparse."

What state's approaching truck parking best?

Shuffle the top three biggest hitters for "best roads" in the survey and you get the top three best for truck parking, as shown in the rankings here. No. 2 Ohio, furthermore, has garnered goodwill with news in recent months for a planned expansion of its rest area network that could see 1,400 new free spaces added statewide by early 2027.

The tolled Ohio Turnpike was even lauded by one commenter who chose Ohio for best parking: "Ohio Turnpike has the best service plazas in the U.S for parking," with "big parking lots and free showers available 24/7. No other state does that." In early 2025, the Tiffin River Service Plaza on the turnpike was named top "truck stop" in the nation for the highest ratings given by users of the Trucker Path application.

Texas and Florida were similarly lauded for plentiful parking, as were many metro areas in the states listed in far-flung places devoid of the kind of evening parking congestion that garners the ire of so many owner-operators on both coasts.

Top 10 best states for parking

1.	Texas	19%
2.	Ohio	7%
3.	Florida	6%
4.	Iowa	6%
5.	Missouri	6%
6.	Wyoming	6%
7.	Wisconsin	5%
8.	Arizona	3%
9.	Indiana	3%
10.	Montana	3%

! Honorable mention for best parking: **Nebraska**, also with 3% of the overall vote in the survey.

Metro-area rankings for best parking

1.	Amarillo (TX)	6.	Joplin (MO)
2.	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (TX)	7.	Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson (IN)
3.	Cheyenne (WY)	8.	Missoula (MT)
4.	Youngstown-Warren-Boardman (OH/PA)	9.	Grand Island (NE)
5.	Davenport-Moline/quad cities (IA/IL)	10.	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale (AZ)

! Honorable mentions for best parking metros include **Billings, Montana**; **Des Moines, Iowa**; and **Madison, Wisconsin**. The **Ocala** area in **Florida** and **Kansas City, Missouri**, weren't far behind.

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